

We Claim:

1. A blood filter comprising
a filter pad assembly comprising at inlet
layer, an outlet layer, and at least one intermediate
5 layer that comprises a fiber filter media,
a filter housing comprising a first flexible
housing element overlying the inlet layer of the filter
pad assembly and a second flexible housing element
overlying the outlet layer of the filter pad assembly,
10 a peripheral seal formed by the application of
radio frequency heating and pressure in a single step to
join the first and second flexible housing elements
directly to the filter pad assembly, the peripheral seal
comprising a commingled melted matrix comprising material
15 of the first and second housing elements and fiber filter
media of the filter pad assembly,
an inlet port in the first housing element
spaced from the peripheral seal for conveying blood to
the filter pad assembly, and
20 an outlet port in the second housing element
spaced from the peripheral seal for conveying blood from
the filter pad assembly.
2. A blood filter according to claim 1
wherein the first and second housing elements
25 include rims that are sealed together outwardly of the
peripheral seal and outwardly of the peripheries of
layers of the filter pad assembly.
3. A blood filter according to claim 1
wherein the inlet and outlet ports each
30 include an axis that is generally parallel to a plane of
the inlet layer and the outlet layer, respectively.
4. A blood filter according to claim 1
wherein the inlet filter layer comprises a
prefilter.
- 35 5. A blood filter according to claim 4

wherein the prefilter comprises a fiber filter media.

6. A blood filter according to claim 1 wherein the at least one intermediate layer
5 comprises a fiber filter media that removes leukocytes from blood.

7. A method of removing leukocytes from blood using the blood filter according to claim 1, comprising the step conveying blood from a source through
10 the filter pad assembly to remove leukocytes.

8. A blood collection system comprising a container,
tubing communicating with the container, and
a blood filter according to claim 1 carried in
15 line in the tubing.